2. PROTECTING AND BUILDING OUR BRAND FRANCHISES

In 1992, we continued to be very successful in this strategic thrust on a relative basis, but were not successful enough in absolute terms. Philip Morris USA's share of the branded premium category grew again share points to %. Marlboro's share of the premium category was up whether the points to 30%. Perhaps more importantly, the decline rate for Merit, B&H and Virginia Slims was cut from 20% in 1991 over 1990 to 30% in 1992 over 1991. However, this is not satisfactory as total share from the four major brands declined from 31 to 33%. Of particular concern, was Marlboro's decline

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1350

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